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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, January 27,  
1795, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe  
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.  
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson**

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Paris June 27. 1795.

Dear Sir

Of the above hasty view I have sent a copy to one or two other friends. Since it was written the committee have reported a plan of govt. as suggested of 2 branches, the one to be called a council of 500 consisting of so many members, the other of 250 called the council of antients. The age of the 1st to be 30 & of the 2nd. 40. They are to be chosen each for 2 years but to be supplied annually by halves. The Executive to be composed of 5 members to be elected for 5 years, but so arranged that only one withdraws annually. Each member is to have a salary of abt. 5000Sterg. Pr. anm. The object whereof to receive & entertain foreign ministers &ca. The Council of antients cannot originate a bill. If possible I will procure & send you a copy of the plan.

The British have recommenc'd the seizure of our vessels as formerly under the order of the 6th of Novr. 1793. Near 40 being carried by our last & which were the first accts. This has produc'd an extreme ferment here, & it will be difficult under the irritation existing

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in consequence of Jay's treaty , to prevent a revival of the same practice on the part of France if we do nothing when it is known in Ame-

-rica, but abuse the English and drink toasts to the success of the French revolution. I do not know what step they will take in regard to us. My situation since the report of Mr. Jay's treaty has been painful beyond any thing ever experienc'd before, and for reasons you can readily conceive. I have however done every thing in my power to keep things where they shod. be but how long this will be practicable under existing circumstances I know not. Denmark & Sweden will I think be active.

I have just recd. a letter from Mr. Deriux with one for his aunt. If possible I will now answer it; but in case I cannot, I beg you to tell him that I waited on her last fall with Mrs. Monroe, having previously written her repeatedly in his behalf, & after a long and earnest solicitation in his favor & returned without obtaining any thing for him. She had promised something before I went, & the dinner she gave us, was to pave the way for retracting & which she did. The old lady has about her (as I suspect) some persons who are poor, & who prefer their own welfare to his. By the law of France the property cannot be devised from her relatives, but ti possible these people will help to consume the annual profits, wh. latter however she says in consequence of the depreciation are nothing.

We wish most sincerely to get back & shall certainly do it, as soon as a decent respect for appearances will permit, especially if the present system of policy con-

-tinues. I wish much to hear from you having written you several times but recd. not a line since my appointment here. Is there any thing in this quarter you wish to command of books or any other article; or can I serve you in any respect whatever? You will of course command me if I can be serviceable.

I have requested Mr. Madison to shew you some letters of mine to him. I wish to know much in what state my farms are. We are well; our child speaks French well & her & Mrs. M. desire to be affectionately remembered to yourself & daughters to whom as well as to

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Mr. R. & Mr. C. as likewise to my brother & neighbours be so kind as remember me. With great respect & esteem I am dear yr. Affectionate friend Jas. Monroe

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